



Newsletter

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE OF GEORGIA

AUGUST/2021

Minister Davitashvili: “The budget has allocated 100 million GEL, which is a tremendous amount, however, we shall strive toward ensuring stability of Georgian wine industry and attain enhancement trend”



“The budget has allocated 100 million GEL, which is a tremendous amount, however, we shall strive toward ensuring stability of Georgian wine industry” – Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia stated.

“We await a very high quality of harvest, which will result into an increased quantity. Mr Prime Minister, you have mentioned an increasing number of vineyards and we shall embrace a growing trend in this regard. During an incumbent year and due to the pandemic, there is a certain disbalance between materials and demand of private companies; the latter case if not relevant only for Georgia. I would like to reiterate how difficult circumstances there have been for almost every country. Despite of this, we have an increase in export and we project improvements in data, however, it is not enough as we had aimed higher. We had planned 15 – 20%, while an actual increase has amounted to 7 – 8 %, which has not been sufficient. Therefore, the State shall initiate an intervention to balance the prices and ensure that payments to the farmers are adequate and their enthusiasm is solid to keep them dedicated to

their activities throughout upcoming years.

This year, around 300, 000 tonnes of grapes have been processed industrially. This will be yet another milestone during Georgia’s Independence, however, we are striving toward increasing export and triple it; we have featured the respective aspirations within our 10-year plan. We need to increase materials base and maintain a trend of cultivating vineyards in Georgia and establishing new enterprises.

Therefore, it was a highly responsible decision of ours to make an intervention during an incumbent year to balance and mediate harm caused by the Covid. We are channelling our actions toward ensuring stable development of the industry during upcoming years” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

Minister also reiterated that the Ministry has a full readiness to conduct the vintage in an organized manner. “We have had communication with almost every farmer. Since 2014, we have been carrying out electronic passportization efforts of vineyards. This is a crucial element for quality oversight for a Georgian wine. During an incumbent year, Kakheti and Racha-Lechkhumi region will be fully ensured with electronic passports, which enable us to hold an accurate information about each and every vineyard, which opens up access to making projections on harvest. The latter actions determine trust toward Georgian wine, which shall be ensured at the highest possible level. I am confident that an incumbent vintage will be organized at an outstanding level. I would like to thank my staff for ensuring an undisputed working process amidst the pandemic. Our actions shall span across each and every vineyard, however, we have opened possibilities for farmers, who will be unable to register on time, they will have a possibility to complete it during the vintage itself. I would like to call on farmers to simplify the process for making it easier to accommodate their harvest and decrease queues and ensure pre-registration of vineyards, which has been a possibility at the Racha-Lechkhumi and Kakheti regions. Mr Prime Minister, I am firm that your assistance has ensured a maximal assistance for our Ministry to overcome the challenges” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20463/>

Minister Davitashvili: “We are launching agricultural - farming mechanization program from September”

“Upon an initiative of the Prime Minister of Georgia, we have promised our population to ensure co-funding of the mechanization, which is set forth in the 10-year plan for agricultural development. The respective programming is of utmost importance for the population, who reside at villages and are engaged into farming.

This is a core request and demand from our citizens, which we have numerously recorded during our visits. Therefore, we have decided to significantly increase funding to the project, which we had been also operating throughout the previous years. Starting from September, we will accept applications from

applicants willing to be part of the program. We will deploy grant co-funding, thus, making it possible to issue a part of equipment’s costs as a grant; as for the remaining amount – we will fund the latter through preferential, credit or lease resources. We will empower our population with significant resources to purchase agricultural-farming mechanization, that had been a challenge for them.

We will enable funding for small mechanization – up to 20, 000 GEL for equipment; as for medium mechanization – we will enable funding between 20, 000 to 100, 000 GEL for purchasing equipment; a large

mechanization will enjoy funding for equipment exceeding 100, 000 GEL. The latter entails major equipment, as well as all the amenities, required by our citizens for agricultural-farming activities” – Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili stated at the session of the Government.

Worth of the agricultural-farming mechanization program is 50 million GEL. The program is implemented by the Agricultural and Rural Development Agency and entails procurement of an equipment that shall be new.

Within the co-funding, a total amount per beneficiary shall be determined in a following manner: in case an equipment to be procured is up to 20, 000 GEL, then, the co-funding of the latter equipment shall be 35 % of the total cost; co-funding of an equipment worth of 20, 000 – 100, 000 GEL is 35 %; in case, co-funding of equipment is not less than 100, 000 GEL, then, co-funding shall be 30 % of the total cost.

The same terms will be applied to the LTD “Agricultural Logistics and Services Company” upon funding agricultural-farming equipment, including purchase of harvesters.

Applications to the program will be accepted in an electronic format; potential entries will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20456/>

Minister Davitashvili met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili met with Mr Francisco Carlos Bustillo Bonasso, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay. In the course of the meeting, attendees scrutinized matters related to trade-economic cooperation matters.

Minister Davitashvili delivered an overview of trade relations of Georgia at a broad extent and stressed out about the possibilities to pursue trade relations with the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, as well as share experience in an area of agriculture.

“Georgia attains a trustworthy position in an area of animal healthcare. Therefore, export of products of animal origins and live livestock to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay will be an important cooperation, which will be a mutually a“We have demonstrated readiness with an effective and results-based trade relations. I am firm that we will have a successful cooperation with regard to agriculture, as well as livestock areas” – Minister Francisco Carlos Bustillo Bonasso stated.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/News/Details/20477/>

Minister Levan Davitashvili met with Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, Vahan Kerobyan

Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili met with Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, Vahan Kerobyan to scrutinize trade-economic relations between the two countries and embrace prospects for developing these.

“Our countries have a record of successful partnership spanning across many years. We had an interesting meeting with the Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia, Vahan Kerobyan, who represents the Ministry, which ensures oversight of agricultural matters. We spoke about the Armenian and Georgian interlocutors uniting their forces to utilize free trade agreements for ensuring access of Georgian and Armenian companies to the market” – Minister Davitashvili stated.

The meeting was also attended by Mr Levan Mekhuzla, chairperson of the National Wine Agency and Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Armenia and Director of the Wine-Making Fund.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20460/>



Deputy Minister Khanishvili and Ada Baset sign an agreement on providing and ensuring the Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS)



The first Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA), Mr Giorgi Khanishvili and Head of the Biological Threat Reduction Program at the U.S Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Ada Baset signed an official agreement to provide the MEPA with an Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS).

An Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) is a unified database of deceases and serves as an effective tool for exchanging information between the bodies that are part to the epid-oversight integrated national systems. The respective tool is also utilized for a timely notification/reporting, monitoring and analyses. In frames of the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP), an Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System (EIDSS) has been applied to the National Food Agency and the State Laboratory of Agriculture of Georgia since 2004. The system has been gradually applied at each and every regional unit of organizations, which are engaged into laboratories and epidemiological oversight.

The first Deputy Minister Khanishvili thanked Head of the Deputy Head of

the Biological Threat Reduction Program at the U.S Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA), Ms Margo Shields for providing meaningful assistance to Georgia with regard to the Biological Threat Reduction Program (BTRP) and stated that the respective program has been a milestone for ensuring significant progress for bio-security in the country. The first Deputy Minister Khanishvili also stressed out that the U.S Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) has been integral into equipping the State Laboratory of Agriculture for covid detection and protection capabilities.

“We highly appreciate your assistance and we would like to express our gratitude for it. We have been empowered with a knowledge and expertise, which will assist us to fulfill responsibilities for managing an Electronic Integrated Disease Surveillance System. We have harvested goods of a join cooperation with a hope to deepen our cooperation in the future” – Deputy Minister Khanishvili stated.

“I am delighted to thank each one of you for officially signing an agreement, which embraces success of the National Food Agency and the State Laboratory of Agriculture under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia in terms on successful fulfillment of bio-security enhancement. The respective success has emphasized importance of our devoted partner” – Ms Shields stated.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20475/>

Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Ms Nino Tandilashvili attend the “Green Business Forum” organized by the newspaper The Financial

In her speech, Ms Nino Tandilashvili stressed out the projects undertaken by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia as part of the environmental responsibility, as well as actions for separated waste collection and processing waste.

“Discussing green business initiatives is crucial for the Ministry as well ensuring more communication; any new obligation or standard requires investments from the private sector. In the respective direction, the Ministry has plans, which will accelerate their operation. The similar forums enjoy meaningful contribution from the State agencies and business sector and it is crucial to continue organizing them in order to identify environmental initiatives and ensure the State support” – Deputy Minister Tandilashvili stated.

Attendees to the Forum scrutinized matters related to green economy and enhancement of green businesses, as well as fostering assistance to small and medium enterprises.

MP Maia Bitadze, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Committee, Director of Environmental Issues at the “RMG”, Mr Sandro Devidze and Environmental Protection Manager of “Toyota Caucasus”, Ms Salome Mshvildadze attended the Forum.

<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20472/>



Minister Davitashvili met with the Head of BP Georgia



Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia, Mr Levan Davitashvili met with the Head of the Oil and Gas Company BP, Ms Aytan Hajiyeva to discuss enhancement of renewable energy sources in Georgia, as an effort to soften the Climate Change. In the course of the meeting, Minister Davitashvili briefed Ms Khajieva about Georgia's aspirations and actions toward softening the climate change.

"In accordance with the obligations set forth in the Association Agreement with the European Union and aspirations to enhance green economy in the country, Georgia has undertaken numerous meaningful steps. We have already adopted the following three documents - "Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) of Georgia", Climate Change Strategy of Georgia for 2030 and 2021-2023 Action Plan for the Climate Change Strategy of Georgia for 2030. Georgia has already accepted an

obligation to decrease greenhouse gas emission at a national level by the year of 2030- to 35 % as a comparison to 1990. The international community makes significant contributions to the respective processes, such as the European Union's member states and international donor organizations. We are open to any initiative and eager to cooperation with any organization, which will assist Georgia to fulfill obligations set forth within the Association Agreement signed between Georgia and the European Union" - Minister Davitashvili stated.

In the course of the meeting, Head of the BP Georgia, Ms Aytan Hajiyeva stressed out one of the core directions for the company, which is a renewable energy, as well as enhancement of energy sources and ensure access to other modern technologies, which will be a successful action toward softening the Climate Change.

"The BP has been operating in Georgia for 25 years. Apart from major projects in Oil and Gas - the company also undertakes projects for economic and environmental strengthening of Georgia's regions. We plan to develop new opportunities, which will soften the Climate Change. Therefore, we would like to familiarize with an incumbent strategy of Georgia, which will enable the BP to set prospects for specific areas of cooperation" - Ms Aytan Hajiyeva stated.



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20465/>

The hunting season 2021 will be launched in the fourth Saturday of August

A person willing to hunt the migratory birds shall acquire the following:

Pay the respective fee with regard to hunting on migratory birds as set forth by the Law of Georgia on Fees for the Use of Natural Resources of Georgia (10 GEL); within the seven days (including the payment date), a person shall have a document confirming payment or fee whether in a physical or electronic form;

During hunting, the respective person shall have a license issued by the relevant agency under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia for keeping and storing that particular hunting weapon.

Payment of the fee can be handled at any bank of Georgia, to the State Treasury, the code of the Bank: 220 101 222; account information: №200122900, the budget income treasury code: 3033.

The Department of Environmental Supervision under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia ensure an intensified 24/7 monitoring of illegal hunting and violation of hunting rules during the season.

Upon detecting a violation, citizens shall dial hot line of the Ministry - 153 (without an index, the call is free of charge and is anonymous), to enable the Department of Environmental Supervision under the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and their regional agency to instantly respond.

More information on illegal means of travelling and list, dates and daily limits on migratory birds permitted for hunting, as well as description of fee can be accessed at: <https://mepa.gov.ge/Ge/PublicInformation/33111>



<https://mepa.gov.ge/En/News/Details/20468/>